

## **Bordetella Pertussis Collection Materials and Procedures**

### **MATERIALS**

- 1. Pertussis Requisition Form**
- 2. Two Calcium Alginate swabs**
- 3. Regan-Lowe Transport Medium (semi-solid)**
- 4. 15 ml sterile screw-cap tubes with conical bottom (Corning, Falcon)**
- 5. FA/Chlamydia slide(s)**

Note: The above items are available from the Bureau of Laboratories in Boise. Direct requests to Jay Conn, Storekeeper, 208-334-2235 ext. 264.

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Complete Request Form (If request forms are not fully completed, no PCR testing will be done on the specimens.)
2. Check to see if medium is in date, is visually free from contamination and is not dehydrated. Expiration dates for medium are indicated on each tube.
3. Label slide(s), transport media and sterile tube with the name or identification of the patient.
4. Collect two nasopharyngeal swabs, taking care not to contaminate the specimens. (see diagram and instructions on the back).

### **CULTURE & SLIDE PREPARATION (Swab #1)**

5. Roll swab over the well on the slide. Then push the tip of the swab into the semi-solid Regan-Lowe transport medium. Completely immerse the tip of the swab into the transport medium. If the handle of the swab projects above the tube, it should be cut off or rolled in a manner that will allow the tube to be closed completely, so that the specimen will not leak during shipment. (All instruments used in cutting need to be decontaminated with bleach to prevent cross-contamination). Allow slide to dry and place slide in rigid, protective cover

### **POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION (PCR) (Swab # 2)**

6. Place swab in sterile transport tube. Refrigerate until shipment.
7. Ship slides, transport media, the PCR swab in the sterile tube and the COMPLETED Pertussis Requisition form to the Bureau of Laboratories address listed above.

**If there are any questions, contact the Medical Microbiology Section at the Bureau of Laboratories, (208) 334-2235 ext. 257 or ext. 252.**

#### **COLLECTION OF NASOPHARYNGEAL SWABS**

1. Immobilize the patient's head.
2. Gently insert nasopharyngeal swab into a nostril until the posterior nares is reached.
3. Leave the swab in place for up to 10 seconds. This procedure may induce coughing and tears. If resistance is encountered during insertion of the swab, remove it and attempt insertion on the opposite nostril.
4. Remove the swab slowly.
5. Follow the appropriate collection instructions on the front of the sheet and place all waste materials in an appropriate biohazard container.
6. Appropriate precautions should be taken not to cause cross-contamination of specimens (i.e. changing of gloves, decontamination of instruments using bleach and discarding of any previously used materials).

**Guidelines for the Control of Pertussis Outbreaks, National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**